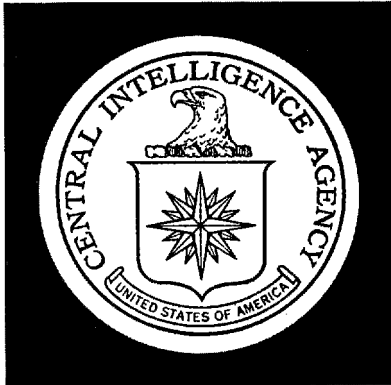


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Ethiopia-USSR: The government has rejected a recent firm Soviet proposal to train and equip Ethiopia's armed forces, according to the prime minister. The offer was made on condition that the US military presence in Ethiopia be terminated. The Soviets have informally proposed military assistance to the Ethiopians on several occasions, but have not previously tied their offers to any specific conditions. The Ethiopians view this move as the latest evidence of the Soviets' intentions to step up their activities in Ethiopia and the Red Sea area and to undermine Ethiopia's long-standing and close relations with the US.

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